

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Dec. 12, 2002

Contact:  
Don Monahan  
(949) 366-8503

## State Parks Police Activities League Helps Kids

# In Sunny Southern California Santa Sometimes Arrives on a Boat

DANA POINT, Calif. – Santa usually travels by sleigh, but this Saturday he'll be using a vehicle more befitting the beaches of Southern California.

The California State Parks Lifeguard patrol boat will carry Santa and his helper to the Ocean Institute in Dana Point Harbor to bring gifts to the boys and girls sponsored by the State Parks Police Activities League. The Ocean Institute is located at 24200 Dana Point Harbor Drive, Dana Point.

"The kids look forward to this event every year," said Mike Tope, Superintendent of the State Parks' Orange Coast District. "It's so exciting to see the smiles on their faces as they board the lifeguard patrol boats to participate in the parade. Providing such a positive experience for youth is what the holidays are all about."

This fifth annual holiday event will begin at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, December 14, with a buffet dinner in a holiday atmosphere complete with decorations and music. After dinner the children will board the "Pilgrim," a full-size replica of an 1825 90-foot trading ship, where each child will receive a gift from Santa, compliments of State Parks employees.

After the gifts, the youth will don lifejackets and Santa hats, and board the State Parks rescue patrol boats to ride in the Dana Point harbor "Parade of Lights" boat parade. With support provided by the State Parks, the Ocean Institute, California Police Activities League, and the California State Lifeguard Association, a magical night will be made possible for children who otherwise might not have a Christmas at all.

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